TIMES-VIRGINIAN

JOB WORK A SPECIALTY — DEVOTED TO THE LOCAL AND INDUSTRIAL INTERESTS OF APPOMATTOX AND BUCKINGHAM COUNTIES. — JOB WORK A SPECIALTY

VOL. XXXIII. NO. 50. — APPOMATTOX, VIRGINIA. DECEMBER 15, 1920. — $1.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE

AVOIDS MIXING UP IN LEAGUE DOINGS

Wilson Declines Invitation to Send Delegates

HIS NOTE TO THE COUNCIL

Not Member Of League—For That Reason Cannot Take Even De Facto Part In Deliberations.

Washington.—President Wilson declined the invitation of the League of Nations to send delegates to take part in the discussions of the disarmament commission.

The President informed the League of Nations Council that inasmuch as the United States was not a member of the League he did not feel justified in appointing a commission "to take even a de facto participation."

The United States, however, the President declared, is in sympathy with any plan for disarmament.

The reply of the President to the invitation of the League Council was transmitted through the State Department to Paul Hymans, president of the Council. It follows:

"I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your cablegram of December 1, inviting the government of the United States to name representatives sit with the military, naval and air commissions of the League in a consultative capacity during the discussions by the commision on the reduction of armaments, the consideration of which is to be undertaken by it forthwith at the request and on behalf of the Council.

"The government of the United States is most sympathetic with any sincere effort to evolve a constructive plan for disarmament, which is so necessary for the economic rehabilitation, peace and stability of the world. The President of the United States is deeply interested in this question and is most desirous of co-operation to this end, but as the government of the United States is not a member of the League, he does not feel justified in appointing a commission to take even a de facto participation in the deliberations of the Council or of the commission acting on behalf of the Council in the execution of provisions in the covenant of the League of Nations."

REDS CONTROL ARMENIA.

Military Dictatorship Is Proclaimed And Soviet Established.

Constantinople.—Reports reaching this city declare the war minister of Armenia has proclaimed a military dictatorship over that country. He is said to have joined Bolshevik troops at Baku and to be advancing toward Erivan, where a Soviet government was proclaimed on December 3.

Following the announcement that a Soviet government for Armenia had been established, a council of people's commissaries was constituted. It is composed of five members, including two generals.

The Communist movement is reported to be spreading swiftly in Armenia, and outbreaks are said to have occurred in the region of Alexandropol, which is occupied by Turkish Nationalists.

MUST CUT OFF BILLION.

Congress Will Not Provide For Over Four Billion Expenditure.

Washington.—One billion dollars must be cut from the legislative estimates in appropriating for expenses for the federal government in the next fiscal year.

"It is out of the question that Congress shall provide for paying out more than $4,000,000,000," said Senator Smoot, who is in position to know.

The estimates already submitted amount to more than four-and-a-half billion dollars, and with the usual deficiency appropriation which will be asked for, will amount to at least $5,000,000,000.

FOR HARDING INAUGURATION.

Senate Authorizes Joint Committee To Make Arrangements.

Washington.—Appointment of a joint committee of three senators and three representatives to make arrangements for the inauguration of President-elect Harding, on March 4, is authorized by a concurrent resolution adopted by the Senate at the instance of Senator Knox, Pennsylvania, chairman of the Rules Committee.

EDITOR WEDS WRITER.

Newspaper Office Romance Staged In Norfolk.

Norfolk, Va.—Louis J. Jaffe, editor of the Virginian Pilot, and Miss Margaret Davis were married at the home of Thomas W. Wheelright, president of the Virginian Railway and Power Company, at Buckhead Springs, Va. Mr. Jaffe has been with the Virginian Pilot about a year. His bride has been writing feature stories for the Virginian Pilot for some time.

WILLIAMS RENOMINATED.

Again Named For Comptroller Of Currency By Wilson.

Washington, D. C.—John Skelton Williams, of Richmond, Va., was nominated by President Wilson to be Comptroller of the Currency. His name was in a list of approximately 17,000 nominations, mostly recess appointments, and including something like 15,000 army promotions. Practically all the more important appointments had been previously announced.

NET COST OF WAR TO U. S. GOVERNMENT.

Washington.—The net cost of the war to the American government was fixed by Secretary Houston at $24,010,000,000. This, he said, represented the "adjusted" expenditure of the Treasury, excluding all other outlay which had no relation to the actual prosecution of the war during the period from April 6, 1917, to June 30, last, which he said covered the extremes of the government's war-time fiscal operations.

Total expenditures by the government during the period covered, excepting only postal disbursements from postal revenues, were $23,830,813,895, Treasury figures showed. Of this amount $16,078,844,097 was obtained in taxes and revenue from sources other than borrowed money.

Mr. Houston said a deduction of $9,523,000,000, the amount loaned to foreign governments, should be made from the grand total since these loans will be repaid and consequently cannot be charged as an actual expenditure.

FINAL LAP OF 66TH CONGRESS

House Bedlam of Noise and Conversation

SPECTATORS JAM GALLERIES

Immigration Legislation To Be Launched Immediately—To Resume Investigations.

Washington.—Congress reconvened Monday with the customary brief and routine opening sessions, which were attended by great crowds and marked by the address in the Senate of President-elect Harding as a unique feature. Senator Harding took his seat, answered his name when the Senate roll was called and made his brief address from the rostrum.

Other features of the opening of the third and final session of the Sixty-sixth Congress were the receipt of the annual appropriation estimates aggregating $4,653,000,000 and introduction in the House of an unusual volume of new bills and resolutions. Senators held their bills until Tuesday in accordance with the custom of limiting the first day to formal convocation.

The Senate was in session 25 minutes and the House, notwithstanding its longer roll call, only twice as long. New members elected last November to fill vacancies were sworn in and adjournment taken.

As usual the Senate session proceeded with dignified calm and the House with boisterous confusion. The latter's roll call was taken amid a bedlam of felicitations of returning members and conversation of members and spectators.

More than 350 new bills and resolutions were dropped into the House hopper, and a flood of similar proportions is expected in the Senate. The new House measures dealt with almost every conceivable subject, including proposals for repeal of war laws, for appropriations of millions of dollars for a myriad of purposes, pensions and many measures for farmers' relief.

Calls for numerous committee meetings this week were issued by chairman, but leaders said that the regular appropriation bills would have the right of way. They added that it was hoped to pass all of the appropriation bills before March 4, but that considerable other legislation would be "squeezed in." It also was said that there probably would be a short holiday recess about December 22 over New Year's Day and that the principal work of the session would come after the holidays.

Arrangements also were made for resumption of numerous Congressional investigations, suspended in part or wholly during the recent recess.

Among early committee meetings called was a session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, to take up a convention with Canada dealing with military deserters, and other unfinished business. It was indicated that no treaties, except the Colombian treaty now on the Senate calendar, would receive early consideration.

TO POISON ALCOHOL.

U. S. Chemists Seek To Stop Industrial Permit Frauds.

New York.—To prevent illegal use of alcohol issues on permits for manufacturing purposes the government is experimenting to determine whether mercury or other poisonous matter cannot be introduced, Charles R. O'Connor, prohibition director, told the Aroma Club of New York, perfumers, toilet goods dealers and barber supply makers. He declared chemists in the technical division of the federal prohibition office in Washington were conducting the experiments. He added that hundreds of applicants for alcohol for nonbeverage use have claimed falsely to be manufactures of perfumery and toilet preparations.

MINERS REFUSED WAGE JUMP.

Anthracite Operators Decline To Reopen Recent Award.

Philadelphia.—While willing to adjust any individual cases of injustice or inequality within the present agreement, representatives of the anthracite mine operators notified the mine workers that they were against granting any genral additional wage increase or take any action that would tend to reopen the award of the United States anthracite coal commission.

STEPS TO MEET HOME PROBLEMS

Wilson's Program In Message Sent to Congress

AVOIDS LEAGUE OF NATIONS

Congress Getting To Work—Members Are Deep In Plans To Deal With The Spell Of Depression.

Washington.—Both houses of Congress were in brief session to hear President Wilson's annual message. It was read by the clerk, Mr. Wilson having heeded the advice of his physician not to appear in person to present his recommendations.

Galleries in both Senate and House were crowded. Both those drawn by the chance that the President might appear in person or by the possibility that his message might touch upon the League of Nations question or his own approaching retirement to private life were disappointed.

Mr. Wilson confined himself almost wholly to domestic questions. Only by inference did his message refer to the nearing close of his administration and that was in the concluding paragraph. The proposals he presented, the President wrote, were not so much a series of recommendations as a confession "of the faith in which I was bred and which it is my solemn purpose to stand by until my last fighting day."

Aside from hearing the President's message, Congress made definite progress on at least one of the problems it faces during the brief session. The House received a rule under which an effort will be made to take up the immigration bill for prompt action. It would limit general debate to four hours. A two-day interval was allowed to permit Representative Siegel, of New York, a member of the immigration committee, to frame a minority report.

No other matter in either house has parted beyond the committee stage. At both ends of the Capitol, however, members were deep in plans to deal with business depression, unemployment and farmers' relief. Discussions in the Senate of the plight of farmers delayed the reading of the President's message in that body.

The industrial situation also found a place in the President's message. Recovery from war effects gave promise of early completion "only in our own fortunate country," Mr. Wilson said, and even here "halts and is impeded at times." A program of "immediately serviceable acts of legislation" to aid that recovery "and prove the indestructible recuperative force of a great government of the people" should be undertaken, Mr. Wilson said, adding:

"One of these is to prove that a great democracy can keep house as successfully and in as business-like fashion as any other government."

First among the recommended steps Mr. Wilson placed enactment of a "workable budget system." He said he had vetoed the budget bill passed at the last session "reluctantly" and because of "a constitutional objection," but as it was later revised in the House, he believed it would, with other measures, furnish "foundations for a national budget system."

Mr. Wilson cited figures as to the national debt and urged "rigid economy," in which all branches of the government should co-operate.

"I cannot over-emphasize," he said, "the necessity of economy in government appropriations and expenditures and the avoidance by Congress of practices which take money from the Treasury by indefinite or revolving fund appropriations."

"This year's estimates 'strikingly' illustrated the importance of specific appropriations, the President added, the Transportation Act having 'disturbed' the relationship between current receipts and expenditures to the extent of over a billion dollars.

"It is obvious," the message continued, "that these large payments have already seriously limited the government's progress in retiring the floating debt."

The President renewed some of the recommendations he made at the opening of the last session, and added:

"I do not feel it my privilege at present to suggest the detailed and particular methods by which these objects may be attained, but I have faith that the inquiries of your several committees will discover the way and the method."

The only recommendations for other than domestic matters was that for a loan to Armenia to be administered through American commissioners to avoid "further tempting opportunities" to revolutionary tendencies in that country, "and for granting independence to the Philippines to keep our promises to the people of those islands."

NOBEL PRIZE TO WILSON.

Copenhagen. — Announcement is made that the Nobel peace prize will be conferred on President Wilson of the United States. The ceremony will be held, as usual, in the Norwegian Storthing, which awards the prize.

SOCIALIST WITH REDS.

Chicago.—Resolutions adopted by the Socialist party's national committee declared that the party is "heart and soul with the Russian revolution and the Russian Soviet Government" and in favor of affiliating with the Third Internationale at Moscow. The resolution pointed out, however, that the party has not accepted the terms made by the Third Internationale when it asked the Socialist party to affiliate.

DOG'S TAIL NO PLACE FOR AMERICAN FLAG.

Boston.—The display for sale of a toy dog with a miniature American flag attached to its tail brought S. Ishikawa into the Municipal Court here. Mrs. Ralph M. Kirtland, president of the Women's Civic League of Malden, and a member of the Daughters of the Revolution, complained that it was shown at Ishikawa's novelty shop in the Back Bay. The merchant admitted the fact, said the toy was one of a lot imported several years ago from Japan, and pleaded that there was no intention to show disrespect for the Stars and Stripes. He was fined $10 with an admonition to take from his stock any other offending articles.

FOR A LARGER NAVY.

Committee Guided By Harding's Recent Statement.

Washington.—Statements by President-elect Harding in addresses at Norfolk and Newport News, Va., have been interpreted by Republican members of the House Naval Affairs Committee as favoring a large navy and a greater merchant marine and as such will guide the committee in its work, Chairman Butler said.

Representative Butler, in announcing that the committee had been called to meet to outline its program of work for this session of Congress, said that hearings would be started within a week. These hearings, Mr. Butler said, had been planned with a view of gathering all available data on naval subjects in order that at the extra session, "the committee will be ready to press legislation through."

DYING BY THOUSANDS.

Twenty Million Chinese Threatened With Starvation.

New York.—At least 20,000,000 people will die of starvation in North China this winter unless help in unprecedented quantities reaches the stricken area, according to word received here by The Christian Herald from its Peking correspondent.

Pointing out that only a month ago the estimates placed the number of persons affected from 30,000,000 to 40,000,000, the correspondent said that further surveys in isolated districts show at least 50,000,000 directly involved.

"The people are now dying by thousands and we are just in the beginning of the winter," he added.

FARMERS ASK RELIEF BILLS.

Changes In Tariff, Tax And Railroad Acts Among Demands.

Indianapolis, Ind.—Enactment of a legislative program, including changes in the tariff, the income tax, the Esch-Cummins Transportation Act and the passage of several new measures was asked of Congress by resolutions adopted at the annual convention of the American Farm Bureau Federation. President-elect Harding also was requested to appoint a secretary of agriculture who has a practical understanding of all phases of farming. Among the policies enunciated by the resolutions was the federation's opposition to strikes and lockouts.

WELFARE WORKERS FREED.

Were Captured When Entering Lithuania By Mistake.

Washington.—Miss Martha Graczyk, Rochester, N. Y., and Miss Mary A. Wasilczyk, American relief workers, reported held on the charge of espionage of Lithuania, have been released, the State Department was advised from Warsaw. Their soldier chauffeur took a wrong road, driving them into Lithuania when they intended to remain in Poland, and relief work documents they carried were viewed with suspicion by the Lithuanians. Explanation by American Commissioner Young at Warsaw obtained their release.

The two women were representing the Grey American Corps in Child Welfare Work.

TO ASK $2,473,594 FOR PARKS.

National Services Plans Comprehensive Development.

Washington.—Definite approval by Congress of a comprehensive plan for development of the national park system will be sought by the National Park Service of the Department of Interior in submitting its 1922 appropriation estimates.

The estimates, which were outlined in a statement by the Park Service, total $2,473,594, and provide for construction of roads, sanitary systems, camping grounds and electric lighting plants for the public camps and hotels in addition to the regular expense of maintenance and administration.

MEXICO-CHINA PACT CANCELED.

New Convention To Be Considered During Coming Year.

Mexico City.—Cancellation of the commercial treaty between Mexico and China was announced at the Foreign Office here. This convention has been in existence for a long time, and during the coming year commissions from both nations are to study the situation and make recommendations upon which a new pact will be negotiated.

DANZIG CALLS ITSELF FREE.

Constituent Assembly Adopts Title Of "Volkstag."

Berlin.—The constituent assembly of Danzig has proclaimed itself the parliament of the free city under the title of "Volkstag," with powers to enact legislation until 1923. A majority of the Socialists, Independent Socialists and Poles voted against this decision and then left the hall, taking no further part in the proceedings.

RING OUT, YE MERRY BELLS!

Ring out, ye merry bells! Welcome, bright icicles!
Welcome, old holly-crowned Christmas again!
Blithe as a child at play, keeping his holiday,
Welcome him back from the snow peak and plain.

Up with the holly bough, green from the winter's brow,
Lock up your ledgers and cares for a day;
Out to the forest go, gather the mistletoe,
Old and young, rich and poor, up and away!

Up with the holly boughs, ay, and the laurel now;
In with the yule log, and brighten the hearth;
Quick! here he is again, come with his joyous train,
Laughter and music and friendship and mirth.

Up with the holly boughs, high in each manor house,
Garnish the antlers that hang in the hall.
Yes, and the "neck" of corn with a gay wreath adorn,
Rich as the bloom on the cottager's wall.

Wealth has its duties now, Christian, you will allow;
Think, then, ye rich, whilst your tables are spread,
Think of the wretched ones, Poverty's stricken sons,
Weeping whilst children are asking for bread.

Ring out, ye merry bells! ring till your music swells
Out o'er the mountain, and far on the main;
Ring till those cheerless ones catch up your merry tones,
Singing, "Come, Christmas, again and again."

—Frank Leslie's Popular Monthly.

First Xmas Carol Found in the Roman Mass

CAROLS were originally accompanied with a dance, and this carol dancing is part of the rhythmic movement of the Oberammergau play, as well as of the dances of the Shakers of Lebanon in New York state.

The first Christmas carol in history is the "Gloria in Excelsis" found in the Roman mass, and in the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. It is ascribed to Telesphorus, bishop of Rome, about the year A. D. 139, and is common in both the eastern and western churches.

An old English carol begins with the notable words:

Behold a simple, tender babe
In freezing winter night,
In homely manger trembling lies,
Alas, a piteous sight.

The "higher critics" have wondered how the shepherds could watch their flocks by night, even in winter in Judea, but this presented no difficulty to Robert Southwell, the author of this quaint carol, who as a Jesuit was imprisoned in the Tower of London, and, after enduring the tortures of the rack, was executed in 1594.

A popular carol among the Germans is one written by Martin Luther for his little son Hans. It begins:

From the highest heaven I come to tell
The gladdest news which e'er befell.

A very sad story is told in connection with this carol. In order to give it realistic effect in a certain Lutheran church it used to be sung by a boy let down from the roof of the church dressed as an angel. But one day the rope broke, and the boy was killed. This put an end to a very beautiful but dangerous Christmas custom.

At a time when the liturgical and biblical plays were popular the Christmas carol was an important feature. In Italy in the time of St. Francis of Assisi, in order to instruct the people, the villagers came to the church carrying lighted torches, and there they saw the scene of the manger filled with hay, and the ox and ass standing in their places near the Virgin and Child. Then it was that St. Francis and his friars stood by the manger all night long, giving God thanks that by this means the hearts of the people had been touched.

"Rare old Ben Jonson," in the days of the "Good Queen Bess," wrote a carol which begins "I sing the Birth was born tonight." And about that time appeared a very popular carol which is sung in "Merrie England" even to the present day, the first line of which is "God rest you, merrie gentlemen." Some old Christmas carols have come down to us in half Latin and half English. Among them is a carol which appears in the collection for Grace church, New York city:

When Christ was born of pure Marie
In Bethlehem, that fair citie,
Angels sang with mirth and glee
In Excelsis Gloria.

In this "Grace collection" there is a carol commencing "Over the world on Christmas morn," by Dr. Mackay Smith.

The uncouth carol of the sixteenth century has given place to the popular Christmas hymn of later days. Wherever the English language is spoken Charles Wesley's hymn, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing" finds a place in the sanctuary. It is also translated into the languages of India, China and Japan. Its author was the brother of the founder of Methodism. He was a true poet and a perfect hymn writer. His masterpiece is the beautiful hymn "Jesus, Lover of My Soul," which was sung by the Princess Alice at the deathbed of the prince consort of England, the lamented husband of Queen Victoria.

"Come all ye faithful" is the "Adeste Fideles" of the Latin, and came originally from the pen of Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, a native of Spain, who flourished about the latter half of the fourth century. There is another hymn by the same Latin author which begins with "Of the Father's love begotten."

We have two well-born Christmas carols by American writers. "O Little Town of Bethlehem" was written by the popular Boston divine, Phillips Brooks. "Shout the Glad Tidings, Exulting Sing" was composed by Dr. Muhlenburg, the founder of the Church of the Holy Communion, St. Luke's hospital, and other charities in New York city.

"Angels from the Realms of Glory" is by the great hymn writer James Montgomery, who for thirty years edited a Sheffield newspaper in England. He is often confounded with Robert Montgomery, who was ridiculed and denounced by Macaulay.

"Sing a Song This Blessed Morn" was written by Bishop Christopher Wordsworth, nephew of the great English poet and father of the present Bishop of Salisbury. Dr. Wordsworth was Master of Harrow, Canon of Westminster, and Bishop of Lincoln.

"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" is by Nahum Tate, poet laureate, associated with the Tate and Brady version of the Psalms. He died when in prison for debt.

The popular hymn "Christians Awake, Salute the Happy Morn," was written by John Byron, a Lancashire man, who was esteemed a good scholar and poet in his day. He was born in Manchester in 1691.

The two eminent sweet singers of the church, John Keble and Reginald Heber, bishop of Calcutta, have written Christmas hymns, but they lack those elements of popular song which constitute the Christmas carol. Keble sweetly sings:

Like circles widening 'round
Upon a clear blue river,
Orb after orb the wondrous sound
Is echoed on forever,
Glory to God on high, on earth be peace.

The lines of the gentle Heber have their lesson in these days of commercial unrest:

If gayly clothed and proudly fed,
In dangerous wealth we dwell;
Remind us of thy manger bed
And lowly cottage cell.

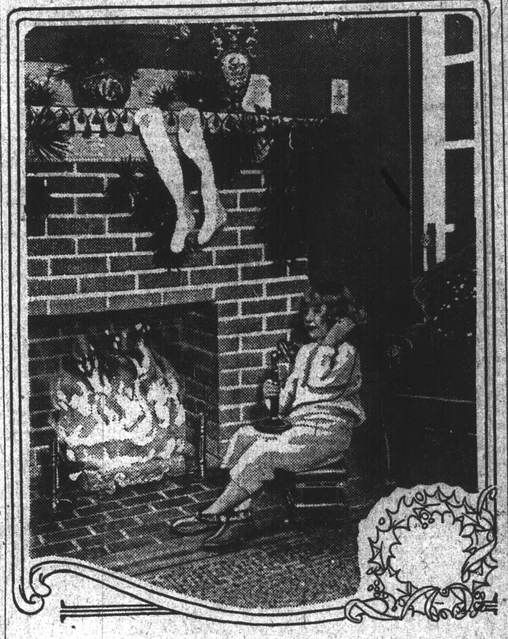
LET THE CHILDREN HELP

Christmas day is a day for the children especially. They will have more pleasure in this holiday if they are allowed to prepare for it. In town where the children have kindergartens the little ones are filled with the holiday spirit by the work they are given to do and the plays they share. The teacher has them making chains of colored paper, strings of red cranberries, curtains of red and yellow grains of corn. They cut out snow scenes, showing Santa Claus and his reindeers. They play Christmas games and sing Christmas songs. They doubly enjoy this sacred holiday for they have helped to prepare for it. The shops supply kindergarten materials for home work. Even the ten-cent stores have sewing cards with wools, beads, games and colored crayons with which the children can do their share.

When the Oxen Kneel.

Oxen kneel in the stalls at midnight on Christmas, says English tradition. They kneel as if in adoration of the Nativity.

"And Santa, Be Sure and Don't Forget—"



CHRISTMAS BELLS

The great yule logs are blazing high,
The halls with holly green are drest,
And blithsome maids and merry lads
Are gayly clad in all their best.
And have ye seen the fairest maid
That ere hath dwelt 'tween sea and sea?
And for my love and for my faith,
Think ye she'll bring a gift to me?
O, ring, ye joy-bells, gayly ring!
O, merry minstrels, harp and sing!
Fill every heart with Christmas cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

The yule fire blazes warm and high,
On oakened rafter, blackened wall;
It shines upon the fairest maid,
As down she dances thro' the hall.
I fling my weary harp aside,
(And will she stoop to such as I?)
I haste to meet her underneath
The mystic branches hanging high.
O, ring, ye joy-bells, gayly ring!
O, merry minstrels, harp and sing!
O, fill my heart with Christmas cheer,
For Christmas comes but once a year.

Who hath so rare or fair a gift
As this my love hath brought to me?
For I was but a minstrel lad,
A dainty, high-born maid was she.
Yet with her lips her heart she gave,
Her heart, all pure as Christmas snow
And for her love and for her faith,
Fourth unto joust and war I'll go.
O, ring, ye joy-bells, gayly ring!
O, heart of mine, rejoice and sing,
For Christmas love and Christmas cheer
Shall bless our lives the whole round year.

—Annie Louise Brackenridge.

REMEMBER THE LITTLE BIRDS.

When we are all rejoicing and happy in our homes, do we ever think of the little birds or give them a Christmas, too? What would springtime be without them? And yet when do we pay back their kindness? When wintry winds blow, and food is hard to find then is the time we should remember them. Take little pieces of suet and trim some trees for them. If you have no trees in the vicinity of your home, then bundle up in a nice warm coat and go where you can find some.

He Just Can't Wait to See Santa Claus

A Christmas Stocking

By Bertha Esmond Ridgeley

(©, 1920, Western Newspaper Union.)

CHRISTMAS and the high cost of living do not make a very harmonious combination," observed Mrs. Ralston, in her quiet, patient way.

"I was just thinking of that, mother," replied her married daughter, Eunice Marsh, who sat with her work basket in her lap, her needle threaded with mending yarn, and rounding one of her husband's stockings at the heel. "There! that is done, and I hope it will pass muster as half respectable pinned up to Aunt Mary's mantel."

Mrs. Ralston sighed, and Eunice did not act any too cheerful. They were lovable, generous souls, and until the past year or two had never known what is was to skimp and watch the corners closely. The mother picked up the stocking Eunice had placed on the table.

"Come to think of it, Eunice," she said, "we can do better than that. Just run up to the storeroom. Here is the key. You'll find father's clothes and things as they were when he died."

The last years of John Ralston's life had been full of anxiety and struggle. There was a mortgage on the old homestead, and at one time it seemed a foreclosure could not be avoided. Then in some way he secured the money to pay it off, and fortunately it was clear of encumbrance when he died. That was just a month after Eunice married Randal Marsh.

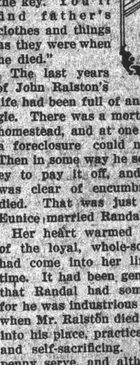
Her heart warmed as she thought of the loyal, whole-souled man who had come into her life at a critical time. It had been generally supposed that Randal had some little means, for he was industrious and thrifty, but when Mr. Ralston died Randal stepped into his place, practical, hard working and self-sacrificing. He made every penny serve, and although there was little surplus, he managed to provide all the necessaries of life and some of its luxuries for those under his charge.

The tears fell as Eunice entered the storeroom, and lifted the lid of the fancy box she had herself covered, in which her father had been accustomed to store his extra clothing. Randal himself had made the receptacle, and together they had given it to Mr. Ralston on his last birthday. Eunice removed some articles of apparel tenderly and with care, placed them on a chair, and discovered some handkerchiefs and three pairs of stockings rolled up neatly. She took the top pair, undid it and with satisfaction noted as it unrolled that it was new and whole.

"Why, what can this be?" she uttered, as an envelope fell from the released folds. Her wonderment increased as she picked it up and found it unsealed and inside a written page and a peculiar looking key. Then with staring eyes, breathless, stirred to the depths of her soul, she read:

"After I am gone see that this letter and key are given to Randal Marsh. It has been a secret he made me promise never to divulge, that he gave me money to pay off the mortgage. Poor, noble hearted fellow! he had saved the $2,000 to build a little home, and gave it feely to benefit us all. Month by month I have saved what I could, and have placed the money in a safety deposit box in the City bank, where there is now nearly the amount he gave me. It has been my one great desire and hope that I might live to give back to him what he so generously bestowed."

Eunice with difficulty suppressed a great cry of joy. She could scarcely refrain from rushing downstairs and revealing her marvelous discovery to her mother. As she reflected how much this generous donation would mean to them all, in a transport of happy tears she sobbed forth her love for the worthy helpmate who had so well fulfilled his duty to herself and her family.



Eunice was alive with half-subdued excitement all that evening. She waited when they had reached Aunt Mary's until her mother and the others had placed their little gifts in the stocking bearing a card with Randall's name. All alone, she kissed the precious envelope and slipped it into the stocking.

"A necktie, gloves and a pen knife. That from aunty. Something always useful. A letter, no! a card of greeting, no! Why, what does this mean!" spoke Randal Marsh, and read it as they all gathered about the fire place, and then he knew. Unselfish man that he was, he actually blushed like a culprit detected at the revelation of a sleeping secret of years.

"It means that I have the dearest, most noble husband in the world!" cried Eunice, her arms about him, her lips raining kisses. "Oh, my brave one! my true one! And who in the world today deserves the blessings of Christmas more than you!"

Trouble Ahead.

"I'm afraid this chafing dish my wife got for Christmas is going to cause discord."

"Why so?"

"Well, I don't like her chafing and she doesn't care for my chaffing."

BULL FIGHTS XMAS FEATURE.

When the people of Peru celebrate Christmas, ice-stalls, provided with chairs and benches, are crowded with perspiring pleasure-seekers who find ice decidely necessary on sultry Christmas. There are other peculiar features connected with a Christmas in Peru. No doors are closed. There is music and dancing in almost every house and everyone is welcome. Strangers can enter anywhere and will be given a hearty welcome, especially if they are foreigners. At midnight the people go to church and the houses and streets are nearly deserted.

Christmas Decorations.

In America our chief mid-winter decorations are little fir and cedar saplings from six to ten feet high, children's trees essentially, to be made resplendent with colored candles and shining trinkets, with solider gifts in soberer packages between; branches, wreaths, stars, or even tiny sprigs of holly; sprays of mistletote, and sometimes a whole mistletoe plant. But the tiniest sprig of mistletote is as effective as the larger bunch, if properly placed, in contributing to the mirth of a Christmas evening, provided a proper number of maids and men be present.

Johnny Knew.

Teacher—Johnny, what man has done more for this country than any other man?

Johnny — Santa Claus. — Houston Post.